

REPORT

OF

THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

ON THE PETITION OF

ELEANOR LAWRENCE,

(Referred to him by a resolution of the Senate of 30th ult.)

DECEMBER 20, 1820.

Printed by order of the Senate of the United States:

WASHINGTON:

PRINTED BY GALES & SEATON.

1820.

DEPARTMENT OF WAR,

December 19th, 1820.

SIR: In obedience to a resolve of the Senate, of the 30th ult. referring the petition of Eleanor Lawrence, to this Department for a report, I have the honor to state, that I have examined into the facts set forth in the petition and accompanying documents, and, as far as they can be ascertained from evidence furnished by this office, it appears, that, in 1813, a volunteer corps in the service of the United States, took possession of a part of the petitioner's farm; and that, in 1814, General Swift, the chief engineer, by order of the government, erected thereon certain defences, which, with the farm and its buildings, continued to be occupied by the troops of the United States until August, 1816, when it was evacuated.

After the evacuation, a person was employed to take charge of the property of the United States left on the premises, who has continued to perform that duty to the present time, without, however, considering it as excluding the occupancy of the buildings and farm by the proprietor. Upon a full consideration of all the facts, Mrs. Lawrence appears to have a well founded claim against the government for damages which she may have sustained in consequence of the occupation of her farm by the troops of the United States, or from injuries resulting therefrom. It appears, by the petition, she proposes two modes of redress, either to convey the farm to the United States, at what it originally cost, with interest thereon, or to retain it, and to be remunerated for the damages which she has sustained. It may be proper to remark, that it would not appear to be advisable to accede to the former mode, as it appears, by the report of the board of engineers, (charged with preparing a plan for the defence of the coast) that the position will not be required for the defence of New York, and that it is not necessary for military purposes.

This Department has no information as to the amount of damages which the petitioner may have sustained, but, should the Senate believe the claim well founded, I would respectfully suggest the propriety of the passing of an act for the settlement of the claim on equitable principles, under which, measures would be taken to ascertain the exact amount of damages.

I have the honor to be,

Yours respectfully,

J. C. CALHOUN.

President of the Senate.

Department of War
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir: In obedience to a resolve of the Senate, in the 20th ult. 1847, I have the honor to inform you that I have examined into the petition of the citizens of the Territory of Kansas, in relation to the admission of the Territory into the Union. I have the honor to state that I have examined into the petition and accompanying documents, and as the same are in conformity with the provisions of the act of the 20th Feb. 1847, I have the honor to recommend that the Territory be admitted into the Union as a free State. I have the honor to enclose herewith a copy of the report of the Committee on the subject, and a copy of the act of the 20th Feb. 1847, and a copy of the resolution of the Senate, in relation to the admission of the Territory into the Union. I have the honor to be, Sir, your obedient servant.

Very respectfully,
John C. Calhoun

I have the honor to be,
Your obedient servant,

John C. Calhoun

Secretary of War